

**ANTI-ZIONIST
COMMITTEE
OF SOVIET PUBLIC
OPINION:**

AIMS AND TASKS

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PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-ZIONIST COMMITTEE OF SOVIET PUBLIC OPINION

The Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion held a press conference in the press centre of the Foreign Ministry on June 6, 1983. The questions put by Soviet and foreign correspondents were answered by Committee Chairman, Colonel General David Dragunsky, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, chief of the higher officers' courses Vystrel, and a member of the Central Auditing Commission of the Communist Party; First Vice-Chairman of the Committee Professor Samuel Zivs, doctor of law and a merited scientific worker of the Russian Federation; Vice-Chairman Mark Krupkin, candidate of science (law); Vice-Chairman Yuri Kolesnikov, a member of the Union of Soviet Writers; Vice-Chairman Igor Belyaev, doctor of economics and a department head at *Literaturnaya Gazeta*; members of the committee presidium, Academician Martin Kabachnik, Hero of Socialist Labour

and a winner of Lenin and State prizes; Victor Pushkarev, a grinder at the Moscow data-processing equipment plant and a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and Genrikas Zimanas, editor-in-chief of the *Komunistas* magazine and a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania. The press conference was conducted by Valentin Kamenev, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's press department.

Below we publish materials of the press conference.

Dragunsky. Comrades, ladies and gentlemen,

About one and a half months have passed since the founding meeting of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion, at which this body was elected. It is, indeed, a brief period. But the Soviet public and mass media have already shown great interest in our work and in the fact that such a committee has been founded. The establishment of the Anti-Zionist Committee has also evoked interest abroad.

In this period we have received more than 500 letters from Soviet citizens, expressing vigorous support for the initiative. A good many letters have come from abroad. Soviet and foreign journalists have addressed inquiries to the committee. This prompted us to hold a press conference to explain why and how our organization was set up, to outline the aims and tasks of its activity, and to answer any questions that might be put.

How did it all begin? Late in March and early in April Soviet newspapers published an appeal by a group of Soviet public leaders calling for active political unmasking of Zionism, for a more vigorous

rebuff to the Zionists' anti-Soviet propaganda, for more effective action, and for sponsoring a voluntary public organization for this purpose.

The appeal was addressed to workers, collective farmers, intellectuals, scientists, writers, art workers, journalists, to all members of the various nationalities. Telegrams and letters began to arrive almost the day after the appeal was published. Our appeal met with keen, I would say, genuinely enthusiastic support. This gave us grounds for holding the inaugural meeting. We had every justification to say that we had been given a public mandate, that this broad support was an expression of public opinion. This entitled us to call ourselves the Committee of Soviet Public Opinion and to speak on behalf of the broad Soviet public.

You may ask why we decided to form the Anti-Zionist Committee at this particular time. The struggle against Zionism as a dangerous variety of capitalist ideology was waged by Lenin as far back as the beginning of the century. The Soviet people have always regarded Zionism as an ideology which advocates the national exclusiveness of the "chosen people", and hence as a chauvinistic and racist ideology.

Today imperialism, mainly US reactionary circles, are using international Zionism ever more actively and widely in pursuance of aims endangering peace. As we know, the international situation has seriously deteriorated. On the initiative of Washington the latter-day crusaders are mounting ever new attacks on communism, and no small role in this global offensive on the positions of peace and progress is assigned to international Zionism and the political adventurism of the Israeli ruling circles. The false propaganda and obviously slanderous actions of the ideological and po-

litical adventurers of international Zionism are part of the West's psychological war against the Soviet Union.

The past year has shown with particular clarity that in its development Zionism, with its misanthropic ideology and practice, increasingly reproduces the ideas and methods of defeated nazism. The events in Lebanon (Israel's bloody aggression against that country began exactly a year ago) demonstrated to the whole world that the crimes of Begin and his cutthroats differ little from the atrocities committed by the nazis. All this impelled us to announce that the time had come for international Zionism to be combated and its anti-Soviet propaganda rebutted in a more organized way.

On this I shall close my brief opening remarks. If you have any questions, my colleagues and I are ready to answer them. Thank you.

The "Daily World" correspondent (USA) asked the organizers of the conference to comment on the American Zionists' attempts to link criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. The chief object of the Zionists' attacks in this connection was the Soviet Union, which they were trying to depict as an anti-Semitic state.

Dragunsky. This is the typical method used by Western, Zionist and pro-Zionist propaganda to spread misinformation and slander about the Soviet Union. It is well known that the Soviet people are resolute opponents of chauvinism and nationalism in any form, of such nationalistic aberrations as anti-Semitism and Zionism.

Honest people the world over, Jews and non-Jews alike, were incensed by the crimes of the Israeli military. This is well known. Mass demonstrations also took place in Israel. Are such demonstrations of protest a manifestation of anti-Semitism?

The claims that the formation of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion is a manifestation of some anti-Jewish policy are absurd. The myth of the existence of a "Jewish question" in the Soviet Union is exploited in order to substantiate the threadbare thesis, I would say, one of the mainstays of Zionist ideology, about the "eternal nature of anti-Semitism".

Our committee will fight and is already fighting any misleading of people, any attempts to instill nationalist prejudices in their minds. Thus we are fighting to protect people against the pernicious influence of Zionism.

"Trud" correspondent. From what sources is the Anti-Zionist Committee financed?

Krupkin. The committee is a public body and, accordingly, its funds will come from contributions and subsidies from Soviet public organizations, scientific, art, cultural and educational institutions and associations, and donations by individual citizens.

"Izvestia" correspondent. I would appreciate a more detailed answer to the question as to why the struggle against Zionism has become so acute at this juncture.

Zimanas. The reactionary, aggressive trend of Zionism is today more evident than before. Zionism emerged at the end of the last century as the ideology of the big Jewish bourgeoisie, and is today the official doctrine of the state of Israel, determining its aggressive expansionist policy in the Middle East in the interests of US imperialism. The policy of Zionism—which is responsible for the aggressive wars and the genocide at Sabra and Shatila—with its pathological hatred of everything Soviet, has become utterly revolting. The insistent and arrogant claims of the subversive Zionist radio,

which provocatively alleges that well-nigh "all" the two million Soviet Jews dream of emigrating to Israel while the remaining 269 million citizens of the USSR "oppress" and "persecute" their Jewish compatriots, arouse the indignation of Soviet people.

Any brand of nationalism—Zionism or anti-Semitism, German racism or the racist policy of the white minority in South Africa—is harmful and dangerous. Any talk about the superiority of the white, black or yellow race over the other races is criminal. Talk of this kind is particularly dangerous for mankind when it becomes the official ideology of a reactionary regime which relies on the support of international imperialism and seeks to achieve its aims by force of arms, shedding the blood of innocent people.

The Zionists are irked by the fact that all Soviet citizens, Jews included, love their homeland, their Soviet system won in October 1917 and defended at the cost of 20 million lives during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45. The Zionists hate the Soviet Union as an obstacle to the realization of their designs. This makes Zionism incompatible with Soviet patriotism and the socialist internationalism of Soviet citizens.

Correspondent of "Golos Rodiny" (Voice of the Homeland). What can you say about the decline in emigration from the Soviet Union?

The "Los Angeles Times" correspondent asked whether the desire of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel or any other country was regarded in the Soviet Union as a betrayal and, if so, why.

Zivs. I shall try to answer both questions at once. You see, juggling with figures is something that has long been widely practised by Zionist propaganda. Now they say that 50,000 and then that

700,000 Jews want to emigrate from the Soviet Union. In a book I read recently I saw mentioned the figure of 383,528 Jews wishing to leave. I well remembered that figure. From where, it may be asked, are these figures taken? It is not the actual number of people who have applied for permission to emigrate that is counted but the numbers planned by the Zionist demographers, if one may call them that. For instance, 100,000 invitations are sent from Israel, and it is immediately announced that 100,000 people want to emigrate. How is this done? On the pretext of "reuniting families", invitations of this kind are mailed to people who have never had relatives in Israel. Sometimes invitations are sent even to nonexistent Soviet citizens, or several invitations are sent to one and the same person. In the few weeks since the establishment of the Committee it has received indignant letters from Soviet citizens enclosing "official" invitations of this kind, official in the sense that they bear the red seal of a notary public and an accompanying letter from the Israeli Foreign Ministry asking for a humanitarian attitude to family reunion and naming relatives who do not in fact exist. This is one aspect of the matter.

Here is another. We are indeed aware that in 1982 and this year the number of persons emigrating from the Soviet Union has considerably decreased, which, I emphasize, means a decrease in the number of persons who apply for permission to leave.

For a number of years after the war reunification was the chief motive prompting Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality to emigrate. You know that during the war many Jewish families were separated, and this served as the basis for applications to emigrate. By now, however, most families have

been reunited and the number of those who leave is naturally diminishing.

Besides, I believe, fewer people now fall for the Zionist bait, become victims of Zionist propaganda and leave our country.

This is enough for pro-Zionist propaganda in the West to start spreading the slanderous allegation that the Soviet authorities now limit emigration, now halt it altogether. Some have even tried to link the substantial drop in emigration with the formation of our committee. I must add that permission to leave is given by competent government bodies. Our committee can only explain and help Soviet citizens to understand the false and poisonous character of Zionist propaganda and try to protect them against it.

I especially stress this point because our committee is already receiving letters full of anxiety, grief and despair from former Soviet citizens now living abroad.

I think it is worth quoting from some of these letters. Here is one from former Soviet citizen Lubov Vinkler, now residing in West Berlin. "Dear comrades, sponsors of the voluntary organization, the Anti-Zionist Committee," she writes, "I have read with great satisfaction your appeal published in the newspaper *Pravda*. I congratulate you on the establishment of the committee and wish you success in your work. . . I am a victim of Zionist propaganda. For 11 years I have been suffering outside my beloved Soviet homeland. . . I am 59 now, a physician by profession. I have seen enough and suffered enough both in Israel and here. . . I have seen the bestial essence of Zionism. . . Grief, tears, hardship, humiliation, complete isolation and loneliness in an alien and disgusting world is my lot. What has happened to me is the result of subtle

Zionist propaganda. The Zionists meddled in my life and ruined it."

Here is another letter. It came, as you can see by the stamps, from Brooklyn, New York. It was signed by a group of people. "Having fallen for Zionist propaganda we took a suicidal step. . . . We were simply idiots, we did not understand what we were doing by leaving our only homeland," they write. I shall not read the whole letter. It has many bitter, very bitter pages. "We are utterly miserable. We are suffering the torments of hell," says this letter written on behalf of several families. Its authors express confidence that "the Anti-Zionist Committee will defend the Soviet Jews from the intrigues of Zionism and imperialism in general and will help. . . in all justice to prevent people from going abroad to be doomed to misfortune." This wording implies that permission to leave the Soviet Union means dooming people to misfortune.

In the question put by the *Los Angeles Times* correspondent the word betrayal is underlined. I think you have understood from my reply that when the members of a family are reunited, when parents are, indeed, reunited with the children they lost during the war, there is no question of betrayal. But when lying Zionist propaganda ensnares a person, I, as a lawyer, would say it is an unpatriotic act incompatible with our moral principles and disapproved of by Soviet society and by the absolute majority of the Jewish citizens of our country.

"*Sovetskaya Rossia*" correspondent. Are people of different nationalities involved in the Anti-Zionist Committee?

Pushkarev. Our appeal to the Soviet public contained a call to people of different nationalities to take part in the work of the committee, and very

many people responded to this call. At the inaugural meeting Russians, Jews, Ukrainians and representatives of other nationalities were elected to the committee. It is the internationalist duty of all men and women of good will to expose Zionism, its ideology of extreme nationalism and chauvinism, of the brigandage and genocide practised by the Israeli ruling circles in the Middle East.

The Anti-Zionist Committee includes prominent scientists—Academicians Martin Kabachnik and Theodor Oizerman, and Vladimir Kudryavtsev, Corresponding Member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, noted cultural workers, composer Matvei Blanter, actress Angelina Stepanova and film director Tatiana Liosnova; representatives of work collectives in Moscow and the Moscow Region—Alexei Marinich, chairman of the 22nd CPSU Congress Collective Farm in Kolomna district, and Galina Golubeva, of the Bratsevo poultry farm. Among the committee members are well-known writers Genrikh Gofman, Tsezar Solodar, Yuri Kolesnikov and poets Aron Vergelis and Andrei Dementyev. As you see, the composition is truly international.

Correspondent of the "Peace and Progress" radio station. One of the main themes of the provocative assembly "in defence of Soviet Jews," held in Jerusalem in March this year was the allegation that Soviet Jews are discriminated against in the field of education and science. Will you comment on this?

Kabachnik. Zionist propaganda has always been noted for brazenness and has never stopped at juggling with facts. To begin with, in the Soviet Union universal secondary education is compulsory for all children irrespective of their nationality, sex or property status. All children, Jewish included, receive an education, and this means that there

is no, nor can there be, any discrimination in this field. Neither is there any discrimination at the next stages of education (secondary technical and higher), since in the level of education the Soviet Jews hold one of the first places among the nationalities of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, it may be confidently asserted that Soviet Jews have a higher educational level than Jews in all other countries.

Let us take the highest level. A considerable number of Soviet Jews are distinguished scientists elected to the Academy of Sciences, the highest scientific body in the country. This has been so throughout the years of Soviet government. It may be recalled that in 1920 Abram Ioffe, an outstanding physicist and head of the Soviet school of physics, was elected to the Academy of Sciences. He was soon followed by Alexander Frumkin, head of the Soviet school of electrochemistry, a brilliant scientist of world renown, and a number of other Jewish scientists. Many Jewish scientists have been elected to the Academy of Sciences in the postwar years. Among them are physicist Vitaly Ginzburg, crystallographer Boris Wainstein, physicist Ilya Frank and his brother Gleb Frank, a biophysicist, biochemist Alexander Braunstein and physicist Arkady Migdul. The list could be continued. Besides, Academicians Yakov Zeldovich and Yuri Khariton have each been three times awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour. And Zionist propaganda calls this discrimination! The same can also be said about professors and lecturers at colleges and technical schools. Thus, the talk about the discrimination of Jews in the field of education is simply a provocative invention of Zionist propaganda.

The correspondent of the Cable News Network (USA) observed that the state of Israel has a right

to exist, while any government pursuing a policy similar to nazi policy cannot have such a right. In this connection he asked whether the Anti-Zionist Committee would urge the Soviet government to change its policy towards Israel or whether it would call on the Soviet government to support those elements in the Arab world who consider that Israel should not exist as a state.

Zivs. If I have understood the question correctly, it implies roughly the following. We say that the Israeli government is employing methods used by the nazis. At the same time the official and repeatedly expressed view of the Soviet government is that Israel has a right to exist. But if Israel is a nazi state, it should not have such a right. Have I understood you correctly? Let us separate the two aspects of the question. When the state of Israel was established, the Soviet delegate in the United Nations and at a recent press conference in this building Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reaffirmed the Soviet government's official view, which is supported by the Soviet public, namely the state of Israel has a right to exist. At the same time we say—and this was especially borne out by the barbarous aggression against Lebanon—that the Israeli ruling circles and the Israeli military have committed and are committing crimes similar to those perpetrated by the nazi invaders. The methods now used by the Begin government strongly remind the methods used by the nazis, who fought to gain Lebensraum for themselves.

The inquiries repeatedly carried out by international commissions, which included among others the Bishop of Stockholm, Queen's Counsel John Platts-Mills of Britain and Belgian Professor Paulette Pierson-Mathy, have shown that the crimes of the Israeli military are similar to those of the

nazis. The question was repeatedly raised of bringing to account those who inspired these crimes and who perpetrated them.

We are not talking about any abolition of Israel. We are talking about the responsibility of its ruling circles and the ending of its aggressive, expansionist policy, which threatens peace in the Middle East and runs counter to the interests of the Israelis themselves.

Belyaev. In your question you allege that the Soviet Union only in words supports the right of Israel to exist but in reality backs up those Arab circles that are against its existence as a state. This is not so. It was here, at the press conference above mentioned, that Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko pointed out that the Soviet Union does not support extremist Arab circles which oppose the existence of the state of Israel.

Moscow Radio correspondent. Will the letters the Anti-Zionist Committee has received be published?

Krupkin. Our Committee has received a great many letters. Some of them were published the other day in *Izvestia*, part of them, I repeat only a small part, have been included in the booklet *Supported by the Soviet People*.

The UPI correspondent (USA) asked what role the Jewish autonomous region with its centre Birobidjan played at the present time.

Belyaev. The establishment and development of the Jewish autonomous region in the Khabarovsk Territory, in the east of the Soviet Union, was a successful experiment. The participants in this press conference might be interested to learn that not a single person of Jewish nationality has emigrated to Israel from this region during the almost 50 years of its existence.

Zimanas. Some time ago I visited the Jewish autonomous region as a member of a delegation. My chief impression was that relations of friendship and brotherhood among Jews and non-Jews prevailed there. The first secretary of the regional Party committee is a Jew, and many factory managers are Jews. The signboards of all government institutions are pointed in Jewish and Russian.

The population of the region lives like one big family. The region can boast not only of economic successes but also of achievements in the field of culture: it has a Jewish theatre company, which often tours different cities, including Moscow. It will soon move into a new theatre.

Danish television correspondent. I understand that you maintain that anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are two different concepts. But do you rule out the possibility that anti-Zionism could be used as a convenient cover for anti-Semitism?

Zivs. We have resolutely and categorically repeated at this press conference, and are prepared to repeat again, that all Soviet people and Soviet society as a whole are strongly, emphatically opposed to chauvinism, nationalism, and such nationalistic aberrations as anti-Semitism and Zionism. You know quite well that Zionist propaganda tries to label as anti-Semitism any criticism of the ideology and political practices of Zionism.

"Komsomolskaya Pravda" correspondent. In connection with some details made public when the case of the nazi butcher Barbie was investigated, I would like to ask whether the facts of contacts between nazi criminals and Zionists are known to you.

Kolesnikov. Such facts are of course known to us, and I shall tell you about them. During the war I happened to be stationed deep in the rear of

the Nazi troops, whither I had been sent by the Soviet command. I saw what was happening in the nazi-occupied territory.

Adolf Hitler sent his SS gruppenfuehrers, gauleiters, generals and other butchers a laconic but meaningful directive: Only one Jew must remain... but merely as an exhibit! It should be noted that the nazi cutthroats carried out the Fuehrer's diabolic order efficiently, methodically and punctually.

I want to point out here that during the war the Soviet command concentrated on rescuing people of any nationality and religion, including Jews, from the death threatening them in nazi captivity. Our courageous underground fighters and guerrillas, often at the cost of their own lives, saved the unfortunate people, hid them in safe places and in the forests.

In those incredibly difficult times, when the thoughts of all honest people of the world were concentrated on how to defeat the "Brown plague" as soon as possible and save mankind from nazism, the leaders of international Zionism, who assumed the right to call themselves "defenders of the Jews", were in no way concerned with protecting the Jews who were languishing and dying in the nazi death camps. The Zionist leaders were preoccupied only with building up a numerical superiority of Jews over the Arab population of Palestine. And this at a time when it had already become known how the nazis set about "solving the Jewish problem". That is why the leaders of international Zionism should be put in a pillory for their wrongdoings in the Second World War.

That is why today we justly can pass the most severe judgement on Zionism. This would be absolutely correct, fair and objective, for in those terrible times the leaders of international Zionism not only

failed to protect the Jews but even betrayed them by colluding with Gestapo and SS chiefs.

Proof of this is the activity in Berlin of the "Palestine office" headed by Levi Eshkol, one of the leaders of international Zionism who later became Premier of Israel.

Levi Eshkol and his assistants ransomed from SS chiefs rich Jews who had performed "special services" for Zionism. Numerous facts testify that Mr. Eshkol's office refused to help even rich Jews who did not share the Zionists' views. They were doomed, together with hundreds of thousands of other Jews and non-Jews, to death in the nazi crematoriums.

What is more, Eshkol's "Palestine office" co-operated directly with the notorious SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Adolf Eichmann, head of the fourth department at the Reich Security Head Office. This co-operation was "fruitful" for both sides. It is in place to mention here, for example, the case of Rudolf Kastner, which caused a sensation not only in Israel but also outside it. This emissary of the Zionist "Action Committee" with "broad powers" had not only "business" but, I would even say, cordial relations with Adolf Eichmann.

It was not by chance that after the war Zionist sleuths went out of their way to find Adolf Eichmann so that he would not be caught by agents of another country and the secret Zionist-nazi alliance come to the knowledge of the world public.

And this could have happened. This nazi butcher was responsible for the extermination of people of different nationalities from many countries, including Soviet citizens, and of course prisoners of war.

It is also characteristic that the Zionist leaders

of Israel have not yet added their voice to the demand for the extradition and punishment of the nazi criminals who have found refuge in the United States.

As the saying goes, "tell me whom you are defending and I'll tell you what kind of a person you are".

I think this much is clear to everyone: who is who. The cited facts do not give a complete answer to the question you have asked, but I am sure we will have an opportunity to continue our discussion on this subject.

Novosti Press Agency correspondent. Do Zionist doctrines influence Israel's foreign policy?

Belyaev. Undoubtedly. Zionist doctrines not only influence but also determine Israel's foreign policy. Izrael was established a little over 35 years ago and during this short period it has fought SIX wars!

Zionist doctrines—the doctrine of Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates among them—play a decisive role in shaping Israel's policy on the occupied Arab territories and towards neighbouring countries.

Wide currency has been gained by the doctrine of the "original homeland" of the Jews, which existed in ancient times and which must now be restored, the theory of the "historical right" on the basis of which the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been declared "liberated" territories and the Palestinian Arabs are denied their legitimate national rights for the sole purpose of justifying the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Begin considers this only a question of time.

As for other Zionist doctrines they insist on re-carving the political map of the Middle East in such a way that Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and even Egypt be

partitioned into small states. Begin and his government are against defining the state borders of Israel on the grounds that they do not exist at all. According to the "Greater Israel" plan, the borders must be flexible and will be set depending on further territorial expansion.

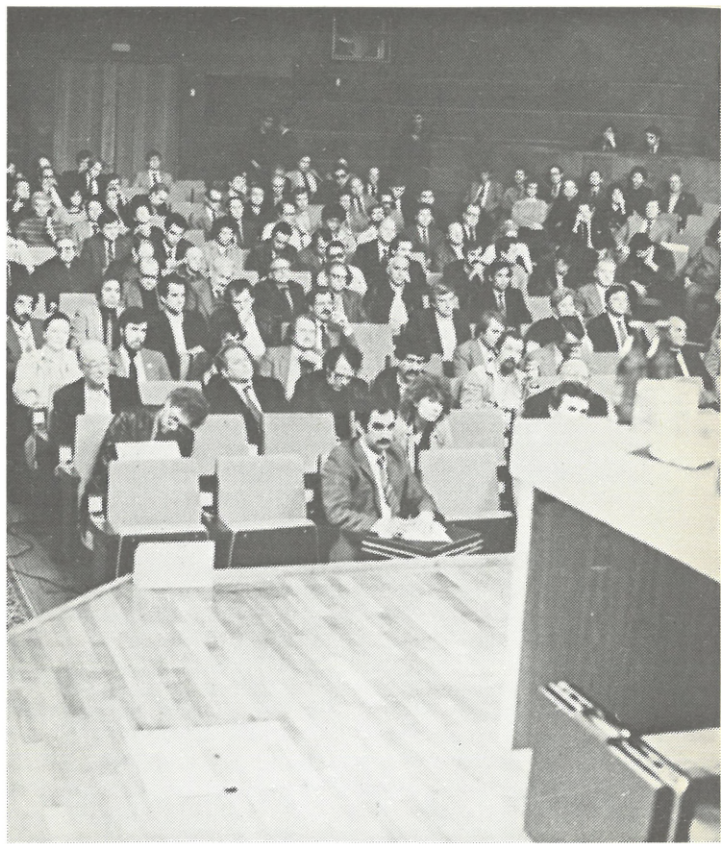
On May 17 the press published our committee statement concerning the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. The statement points to the shackling character of the agreement imposed on Lebanon by Israel and the United States. In our opinion, this agreement is merely a smoke-screen designed to conceal the real aims of Israeli policy. The purpose is to prepare a new war against the Arabs.

"Al-Watan" correspondent (Kuwait). What is your attitude to the just struggle of the Palestinian people under PLO leadership for the establishment of a democratic Palestinian Arab state? What do you think of Reagan's "peace plan"?

Belyaev. I do not think the first question calls for a detailed reply. The Soviet Union has always supported and supports the just struggle of the Palestinian Arabs for their national rights and their own state. The legal basis for the establishment of such a state is, in our opinion, the UN resolution of November 29, 1947, which stresses the need to divide the former mandate territory of Palestine into two states—Arab and Jewish. The Jewish state came into being on May 14, 1948. The Arab Palestinian state has still not been set up. But this does not mean that the Palestinian Arabs have lost the right to establish it. We maintain vigorous relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Soviet Union's stand of principle has been formulated in the relevant documents. We regard the PLO as the only lawful representative of the Arab people of Palestine.



At a press conference held by the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion for Soviet and foreign correspondents.





At the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry on June 6, 1983.



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Letters from abroad addressed to the
 Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public
 Opinion.

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 По поручению лиц, желающих вернуться на Родину:

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Committee Chairman: Colonel-General David Dragunsky (left), and First Vice-Chairman: Samuel Zivs, D. Sc. (Law).

Ethel Klinger, correspondent of the newspaper *Zo Haderech* published by the Israeli Communist Party.



Committee Vice-Chairman Mark Krupkin, Cand. Sc. (Law).



Committee Vice-Chairman Igor Belyaev, D. Sc. (Economics).



Committee Vice-Chairman Yuri Kolesnikov, a member of the Union of Soviet Writers.





A Yiddish primer published in Khabarovsk in 1982.



The Old Testament—the Five Books of Moses—in Hebrew with parallel Russian text, published by the Religious Society of the Moscow Choral Synagogue.

As regards the second question, Reagan's "peace plan" mentions some sort of association of the West Bank with Jordan. But the plan does not explain exactly what kind of association is proposed, and the cardinal problem of the Middle East conflict—the Palestinian problem—is in effect disregarded. It seems to me that the purpose of this plan, advanced on September 1 last year, at the height of the war in Lebanon, was to divert attention from the Israeli aggression and crimes in that country, and not to bring about a comprehensive and just settlement. As for the strategic US-Israeli agreement, it is the real alliance on the basis of which the two countries in fact jointly fought in Lebanon and are now preparing for a war against Syria.

The "Daily World" correspondent asked General Dragunsky to comment on the role the Soviet Jews had played in the Great Patriotic War against fascism and on the role of the Soviet Army in saving millions of Jews from death in gas chambers.

Dragunsky. In the Red Army Jews fought against the nazis side by side with soldiers and officers of other nationalities. About 200,000 Jews were killed in battle, valiantly fighting in the front lines. Many thousands of Jewish servicemen were decorated for their valour in action. More than 120 Jews were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union pays homage to the heroism of its men who fought in the Great Patriotic War.

I was in the Osowiec fortress when the war began. For 1,418 days and sleepless nights I fought on many battle fronts. The brigade I commanded at the end of the war included representatives of some 30 nationalities, and all of them fought for our common homeland. They did not ask what your nationality was—Russian, Kazakh, Jewish or Lettish. They shared a common aim, that of defeating

racism and fascism as quickly as possible and winning freedom for our homeland. Victory in the war was won by the single multinational family of the Soviet peoples.

I would like to mention one more thing. Every year on May 9 we all celebrate Victory Day. That day is officially observed in many countries, but not in Israel.

The historic victory over nazi Germany, the defeat of fascism, is not observed in Israel as an official holiday. The Zionist leaders' pathological hatred of the Soviet Union does not allow them to recognize its historic contribution to the victory that foiled the barbarous nazi plans of exterminating all "inferior races", the Jews included.

Correspondent of "Zo Haderech", paper of the Israeli Communist Party. What methods does your committee expect to use in its work and will it issue a concrete programme? My second question is to Comrade Belyaev. I know that he has recently returned from Israel, where he attended Victory Day celebrations. Perhaps he would say a few words.

Krupkin. I'll answer to your first question. The Presidium of the Committee has recently approved its plan which outlines various undertakings aimed at exposing Zionism and the schemes of imperialism. In the plan we have used many of the proposals contained in the letters addressed to the Committee.

Belyaev. As a member of a delegation of three I attended the celebrations in Israel to mark the 38th anniversary of the victory over nazi Germany. I must stress that these were not official celebrations, although they have become traditional, organised by progressive forces in the country.

In defiance of the government attitude, more than 10,000 people gathered in Red Army Wood near Jerusalem. The first part of the ceremony consisted of laying flowers on the modest memorial to those who fell and perished in the Second World War. This was followed by a rally. The ceremony provided proof that there are forces in Israel which openly declare their belief that history must not be forgotten and oppose fresh military adventures. The ceremony was also a protest against the war with Lebanon and against the plans, which have already been announced in Israel, to declare war on Syria.

The most remarkable fact about the speeches made at the rally was the theme, common to them all, that the crimes similar to those committed by the nazis during the Second World War should never be allowed to happen again, whatever pretext for them anti-communism and anti-Sovietism might claim to find. I was also interested to see that both Jews and Arabs attended the rally, demonstrating that Jews and Arabs can live together peacefully in the Middle East.

It was a rally held in protest against the doctrines which are used by all those in Israel who want to launch a fresh war against Syria, attack Jordan and redraw the political map of the Middle East.

Moscow Radio correspondent. Zionist propaganda is trying to persuade the Western public that the rights of citizens of Jewish nationality are infringed in the Soviet Union. Would you comment on this?

Zivs. The attempt to raise a "Jewish question" in the Soviet Union is an element of the psychological warfare waged against our country. In this connection I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the Western press is systematically flooded with slander about the discrimination

against Jews in the Soviet Union. Books specially devoted to this question are regularly put out. Here are two such books recently published in France. One of them is entitled *Anti-Semitism in Russia from Its Sources to Our Days* and the other *To Be a Jew in the USSR*. Incidentally, both books have been brought out by a prestigious, I would say, academic publishing house, University Press.

The book *To Be a Jew in the USSR* contains figures, tables, calculations and notes. All that it lacks is the truth. Let us look at, say, page 86. It says that the teaching of religion to children is punishable even by death under Article 119 of the Criminal Code. See for yourselves what Article 119 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation says. It provides for punishment for the sexual abuse of children.

Here is another example. The complete works of Lenin, republished in 1964, the book says, did not include a speech delivered by him in 1919. That speech was directed against anti-Semitism, but now this fact is allegedly hushed up. If you take Volume 38 of the collected works, you will find in it that speech in which Lenin explains that hostility towards the Jews is stirred up by the capitalists of all countries with the object of diverting the attention of the workers of all nationalities from their real enemies.

Here are a few more examples. The author of the book claims that all plays staged in Moscow theatres have an anti-Semitic slant. He cites instances. I think even foreign journalists have seen Mikhail Bulgakov's play *On the Run*. There is also a screen version. This dramatic play, giving a broad picture of the retreat of the routed White Guard troops from the Crimea and their flight to Constanti-

nople, is declared anti-Semitic on the grounds that a minor character, one Artur Arturovich, the cockroach king, organizes cockroach races in Constantinople, and one of his remarks shows that he is a Jew.

"For more than half a century not a single edition of the Bible has been published in Hebrew in this country," the book says. Here is the 1979 edition of the Old Testament—the Five Books of Moses—in Hebrew with the parallel Russian text. It was published by the Religious Society of the Moscow choral synagogue.

"*Neues Leben*" correspondent. The Western press often alleges that the teaching of Hebrew is banned in the Soviet Union. More than this, Hebrew is called the national language of the Soviet Jews. What is the real state of affairs?

Zimanas. Hebrew has never been the national language of the Jews either in tsarist Russia or in the Soviet Union. Yiddish is that language. At present about 14 per cent of the Soviet Jews consider Yiddish their mother tongue.

As for the Hebrew language, revived and adapted to the present conditions in Israel, it is taught in Soviet colleges which train philologists and orientalists, for instance, at the Institute of Asian and African Countries of Moscow University, and in the Tbilisi and Leningrad universities.

I shall not dwell on the fact that the Zionist leaders lay special emphasis on the introduction of Hebrew. They would like Hebrew to be studied and adopted as the common language of their widely advertised single "world Jewish nation". Hebrew is also seen by the Zionist leaders as an instrument that would help to spread Zionist ideology.

But to return to Yiddish. It can be stated with all responsibility that the Zionist self-styled "cham-

pions of Jewish Soviet culture" are absolutely indifferent to Yiddish, the national language of the Soviet Jews. Do you know of any Western publishing house which would be prepared to reprint the books of Soviet Jewish authors writing in Yiddish or at least to bring out an anthology of works in Yiddish published in the Moscow journal *Sovietish Heimland*? Do you know of a single Western firm that would be prepared to put out records of Jewish songs sung in Yiddish by Iosif Kobzon or Galina Kareva? Would any leading Western newspaper—from *Le Monde* to the *New York Times*—report on this fine Yiddish Primer, approved by the public education department of the Jewish autonomous region and published in Khabarovsk in 1982?

Why is all this hushed up? Because if it were made public, the true purpose of the "defence of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union" would become clear to everyone in the West.

Correspondent of "La revue des relations internationales" (Belgium). In Belgium there are some prominent Jews, university lecturers in particular, who expose Israel and Zionism. Of course, they work in very difficult conditions, under the pressure of Zionist propaganda. Does your committee envisage cooperation with prominent Jewish people in other countries, who do not accept Zionist views?

Zivs. I believe that in the process of its further work our committee will establish contacts with various national and international organizations which expose Zionism, its ideology and policy.

Editor of "Politiken" (Denmark). You say that you and your committee speak in support of the existence of the state of Israel. Yet it is known that the ideological basis of Israel is Zionism. How

can one fight Zionism and still support the existence of the Israeli state?

Zivs. I think you know our fundamental position quite well: we favour the development of normal relations with many states whose ruling circles and parties hold ideological positions unacceptable to us. But that is not to say that at the present time we are prepared to take a similar approach to Israel, because its government adheres to positions of military adventurism, aggression, racism and expansionism.

"Moscow News" correspondent. Immigration to the "promised land" has lately tended to tail off, and a surge of emigration trends is observed in Israel itself. Does this not testify to a crisis of Zionism?

Zivs. I believe we can speak not simply of a crisis of Zionism but of the collapse of one of its principal concepts—the idea of "gathering all Jews in the land of Israel". What is actually happening? Over the years of the existence of Israel roughly 1.5 million people have moved there from all parts of the world and roughly 600,000, or a third, have emigrated or simply fled from it. Is this not a new "exodus"?

Among the reasons which impel people to leave that country are galloping inflation (135 per cent last year—something of a record in the capitalist world), the atmosphere of chauvinist hysteria, the pressure of religious circles, and, lastly, the state of permanent war in which no family knows whom it will lose in a new aggressive venture. The Israeli parliament is now discussing the question of imposing sanctions on those who try to leave the country. I would say that this is eloquent testimony to the fact that the "promised land" myth has collapsed.

SUPPLEMENT

IN SLANDEROUS FURY

An interview given by David Dragunsky, Chairman of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion, on June 21, 1983, to *Sovietskaya kultura*.

The setting up of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion brought on a fit of anti-Soviet hysteria in Washington. Setting the tone for this slanderous campaign were President Reagan, the State Department and some members of Congress who made crude verbal attacks on the Soviet Union in an attempt to distort the substance of the Leninist nationalities policy of the Soviet Communist Party. They are trying to present Soviet criticism of Zionism and the condemnation by Soviet public opinion of Israel's aggressive policy as part of an anti-Semitic campaign in the USSR.

A TASS news agency reporter asked Colonel General David Dragunsky, twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Anti-Zionist Committee, what he thought of Washington's reaction to the setting up and activities of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion.

These malicious attacks by Washington—and that they would come was only to be expected—show the extreme irritation of the Zionist camp and its patrons. Reflecting the will of the Soviet people, our committee has set out to expose the reactionary nature of Zionism as a concentration of extreme nationalism, chauvinism and racial intolerance, as a cult of political permissiveness and adventurism, unbridled demagoguery and underhand attacks, dirty manoeuvres and the worst kind of treachery. There is nothing accidental about the fact that in its global strategic offensive against socialism and the national liberation movements, against the forces fighting for peace and social progress, the imperialists, headed by the United States, are making the widest possible use of international Zionism as a striking force. This is why the intensification of our struggle against Zionism and against its reactionary ideology and criminal practices arouses such hostility in the more aggressive circles of imperialism, to say nothing of the Zionist rulers themselves.

Characteristically, though silent about the true motives of our committee and its aims (which have been widely covered in the media of this country and abroad), the conductors of the bourgeois propaganda orchestra have failed to invent anything original and are only repeating their worn-out clichés.

A. Romberg, a State Department official, for one, has made sweeping accusations against the Soviet Union, calling it “anti-Semitic”. This dirty method has been resorted to by the ideologists of Zionism and its advocates throughout the entire history of international Zionism and it does not make it any more convincing. I would like to recall here that when Bruno Kreisky, the former Chancellor of Au-

stria and one of the leaders of the Socialist International, was accused of precisely that, he replied, and quite reasonably: "This is a stupid accusation. I am Jewish, but I am not a Zionist, because Zionism is nationalism in its extreme form."

Soviet people are profoundly indignant at the efforts of the Zionist rulers and their benefactors in Washington's present administration to usurp the right to act as would-be "defenders" of Soviet Jews, while at the same time heaping the most blatant slander on our Soviet homeland, its history and reality, falsifying the nationalities policy of the Leninist party. This indignation has been voiced in thousands of letters which we have been receiving from all parts of this country.

Soviet people, and this has been amply proved by the entire history of our multinational socialist state, are true internationalists and they reject all forms of chauvinism, including Zionism and anti-Semitism. Those are the principles which also underlie the activities of our committee.

In a bid to mislead world public opinion these gentlemen draw their arguments from the venom-dripping slanderous writings by renegades of various kinds who are in the pay of the American and Israeli special services. And, of course, they are not satisfied with the true and widely accessible facts that, for example, the Soviet Union, 0.67 per cent of whose population are Jewish, has more college students of Jewish nationality than Israel. Thousands of Jews have been elected Deputies to local and central government bodies, the Soviets, alongside people of other nationalities, and many of them hold high government posts.

The transatlantic slanderers, by the way, have been caught out many times, and one can only wonder how some of the high-ranking officials in

the Washington Administration seem never to tire of playing the same old record over and over again in the hope of making political dividends. All the more because if they were really concerned about "the position of the Jews," they could easily find grounds for their concern not in far-off lands, but right there at home. There are plenty of facts that show militant anti-Semitism flourishing in the United States with the full connivance of the authorities. Discrimination in jobs, the existence of clubs from which Jews are barred, acts of arson and explosions in synagogues, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, the daubing of swastikas on Jewish homes, the manhandling of adolescents—all these have become a feature of the American way of life. According to *USA Today*, the number of anti-Semitic attacks against individual citizens and against Jewish organizations has increased more than eight times over in the past three years. Last year, 947 such incidents were recorded. Things have gone so far that even schoolchildren in the State of Massachusetts have set up "an organization of Americans hating Negroes and Jews". Who gave the US authorities, who allow such savagery in their own country, the right to act as guardians of morals and teach others how they should best observe human rights?

I would also like to point out that the US State Department was particularly irritated by the materials which were recently presented by our committee at a press conference, proving that the chauvinist ideology of modern Zionism and the criminal political practice of the ruling circles of Israel virtually amount to a repetition of the racist ideas and man-hating deeds of the nazis. Mr. Rosenberg referred to this comparison as "an immense distortion of history and the truth".

So much for this official's knowledge of history and his judgement of the truth. I would like to recall a well-known truth which the men in Washington seem to be anxious to expunge from the memory of mankind. The atrocities that the Israeli military perpetrated in Lebanon and are still perpetrating on the occupied Arab lands and for which the ruling elite of Tel Aviv and the leaders of international Zionism are directly responsible, have caused an explosion of anger and indignation all over the world. Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece has called Israel a fascist state, while the London journal *Middle East International* considers the Israeli regime to be akin to the fascist dictatorships in Latin America.

In Israel itself more and more often voices can be heard denouncing the adventurist policy of the Begin government. In reply to all this persecution of the democratic forces in that country is becoming increasingly merciless and brutal. Washington and Tel Aviv both fear this rapid growth of progressive democratic sentiment. They are afraid of protest actions against the expansionist policy of the Israeli rulers. That is why the transatlantic policy-makers are trying so hard to cover up the adventurism of Zionism and its plunderous practices by attacking our committee.

But just as, in the words of Shalom Aleichem, a classical Yiddish author, "you cannot sew a scullcap from a sow's ear", so the US advocates and defenders of Zionism cannot whitewash the latter by an exercise in slander.

WHAT DO THE ZIONISTS WANT?

Mark Krupkin, Vice-Chairman of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion, replies to a letter of an American reader, Henry Goldstein, sent to the magazine *New Times*. The letter was published by the magazine on July 8, 1983.

I have two questions to raise in connection with the recent founding of the Anti-Zionist Committee in the Soviet Union. First, is this not an expression of anti-Semitic sentiment in your country? Second: Israel is at war with the Arabs, but how can the Zionists present a threat to such a great power as the Soviet Union?

Henry Goldstein,
New York, USA

The Zionists indeed tried to present the establishment of the Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion as the beginning of an "anti-Semitic campaign in the USSR". Voice of Israel and Voice of America broadcasts promptly began to call for the creation of a new Zionist organization to take the lead in mounting an offensive against our committee.

Our committee is anti-Zionist, not anti-Israel. We are for peace in the Middle East, and for the existence of Israel as a state. When we voted for its establishment, it was a peaceful Israel and not an aggressive state that we voted for. We know that

in Israel itself there are forces that oppose Zionism, its ultra-reactionary, aggressive policy. The recent 100,000-strong demonstration in Tel Aviv is the best proof of this, not to speak of the courageous struggle waged by the Israeli Communists.

The fiction that "anti-Semitism is eternal" occupies an important place in the anti-Soviet propaganda of the West. It is persistently claimed that there is anti-Semitism in our country and the fact that there is no "Jewish question" in the USSR is totally ignored. The position the Jews actually occupy in socialist society shows that we not only have successfully resolved the economic and social problems involved but have created conditions that completely rule out any possibility of preaching national discord. In particular, we have overcome that shameful legacy left behind by tsarism, anti-Semitism.

Let me remind you that the Zionists began their anti-Soviet activity in the very first days of Soviet government. A secret Zionist conference held in Moscow on May 2, 1918, adopted a programme which declared that "Zionism and Socialism are not only two mutually repellent poles, but two mutually exclusive elements".

Anti-Sovietism and anti-Communism are official policy in Israel. As far back as the early 1970s the then Prime Minister Golda Meir proclaimed a "total campaign" of international Zionism against the USSR. Tactics "of psychological influence" was worked out involving the organization of anti-Soviet meetings, seminars and symposiums with the participation of renegades expelled from the socialist countries. The World Zionist Organization systematically spends on this unprecedented drive two thirds of its 700-800 million dollars annual budget.

Persuading Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel is all but the main objective of anti-Soviet propaganda. A special role in this is allotted to Zionist information media as well as the Voice of America, the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. The so-called "Jewish question in the USSR" is standard fare in the broadcasts of the last two. The purpose of all this is to discredit the nationalities policy of the CPSU and the Soviet government, to undermine faith in the spiritual values of socialism, and to expunge internationalism from people's thinking. Futile though these efforts are, the Zionists stubbornly persist in them.

The Zionist provocateurs are especially infuriated by the fact that the overwhelming majority of Soviet citizens of Jewish origin reject with indignation the exhortations of the self-appointed Tel Aviv patrons to return to "the land of their forefathers". At the recent international conferences "in defence of Soviet Jewry" the Zionists tried to make it appear as if the decline in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union were the result of "a clamp-down by the authorities". Yet the unquestionable fact is that the number of Soviet Jews prepared to believe the Zionists has sharply dropped. Besides, it should be noted that more and more of those who did emigrate are applying to the Soviet authorities for permission to return to the USSR. Our committee too has received a great many such requests.

While paying lip service to "freedom of information" and "free exchange of ideas," the Zionists actually have in mind freedom to spread their chauvinist, racist ideology, to which end attempts are being made to smuggle anti-Soviet publications into our country. The luggage of a US citizen named Morris Fine, who came to Moscow with his wife for the International Book Fair, was found to con-

tain hundreds of copies of anti-Soviet publications in Russian, and catalogues of American Zionist book publishers. A similar instance is the case of Laurence Ackermann, resident of Paris, who was supplied before leaving for a trip to the USSR with a stack of anti-Soviet printed matter and instructed in detail how to conceal it from customs inspection and to deliver it to the addressees.

Not infrequently the Zionists exert direct pressure on US politicians and officials to induce them to make pro-Zionist statements. For instance, they persuaded President Reagan to give his assurances that the "Jewish question" would figure in all talks with the Soviet Union. In deference to them Reagan made some crude sallies against the Soviet Union also in connection with the founding of our committee. The President's example was followed by some Congressmen and spokesmen of the US State Department. Pronouncements of this order are prompted primarily by domestic political considerations, which impel many prospective candidates for high office to seek the support of the Zionist-controlled press.

I hope that the above facts make it clear to you that Zionist propaganda is not only reactionary, but subversive in character: it is directed against the Soviet Union.

АНТИСИОНИСТСКИЙ КОМИТЕТ СОВЕТСКОЙ
ОБЩЕСТВЕННОСТИ:
ЦЕЛИ И ЗАДАЧИ
на английском языке
Цена 15 коп.

